image

1 OF 5 MAR

KINDLON

EPHK

TIGRESS ISLAND™

TIGRESS ISLAND

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HAVE YOU BEEN HERE BEFORE?

I'M ONLY IN COUNTRY TWO DAYS. I SEE AIRPORT, TAXI, HOTEL.

YOU MUST FEEL A LONG WAY FROM MOSCOW.

IS ALL SAME.

YEAH? WELL IT DOESN'T LOOK MUCH LIKE WHERE I'M FROM.

SOME BUILDINGS DULL. SOME FANCY. BUT PEOPLE ARE SAME, ALL OVER. I SEE THEIR SOULS.

SOUNDS LIKE A BURDEN.

YES.

THIS IS VIP ROOM?

I DON'T SPEAK ENOUGH CHINESE TO ASK.

HEY! FRIENDS OF OLMSTED? YOU'RE IN THE RIGHT PLACE! HIIII! I'M BRIDGET!

HAVE YOU MET ANY OF THE OTHER GIRLS?

NO. THIS ONE LOOKS STUPID.

YOU HAVE TO TRY THIS TEA!

IT TASTES A LITTLE LIKE DISHWATER, BUT I THINK THAT'S INTENTIONAL AND PART OF THEIR CULTURE.

WAITER! VODKA!

HONG KONG
1987

ARE YOU GUYS MY NEW WORK SISTERS? I'M DELIGHT.

HIII! I'M BRIDGET! THIS IS, UH...

LONNI AND YULIA.

LONNI AND YULIA!

BOTTLE?

HAVE SOME AMAZING TEA. YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS STUFF, RIGHT?

TEA? YES.

NICE TO MEET YOU.

TELL WAITER I WANT *BOTTLE* OF VODKA?

OH, I'M *JAPAN-ESE.*

SAME ENOUGH?

WELL, CANTONESE IS A TONAL LANGUAGE. JAPANESE USES MORA, WHICH IS LIKE SYLLABLES--

I WANT BOTTLE OF VODKA.

ARE WE EARLY, OR...?

THEY'RE LATE. OLMSTED AND WHOEVER'S LEFT.

I HEARD THERE'S A BOLLYWOOD GIRL NAMED HEMA AND SHE'S VERY FAMOUS IN INDIA.

OOOH! I'VE DONE SOME ACTING! WE'LL HAVE SO MUCH TO TALK ABOUT!

I'VE DONE SOME TV MYSELF.

WHAT ABOUT YOU GIRLS? DONE ANY ACTING?

HERE AND THERE.

IN 1980 OLYMPICS, I ACTED LIKE I CARE.

SO MANY BEAUTIFUL GIRLS, I MUST BE IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

FROM ONE THESPIAN TO ANOTHER, WELCOME.

HELLO, ALL. HAPPY TO MEET YOU.

I FEARED I WAS LATE, BUT IT APPEARS WE'RE STILL WITHOUT OUR HOST--

APOLOGIES!

WE DID NOT MEAN TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

I'M OLMSTED, YOUR MANAGER, AGENT, MARKETER, AND ***FRIEND*** WHILE YOU ARE IN HONG KONG.

AND I'M VANESSA.

MR OLMSTED, REGARDING MY ACCOMMO-DATION--

YOU MUST TRY THE TEA--

VODKA! IS ASKING TOO MUCH?

LADIES, LET'S DISCUSS OVER DINNER ...

...AND DRINKS! SO GRATEFUL YOU COULD ALL BE HERE.

CAN WE DISCUSS SOME SPECIFICS? I'D LIKE EVERYTHING IN ORDER--

AS YOUR CONTACTS BACK HOME NO DOUBT TOLD YOU, THIS WILL BE ***UPSCALE***.

WHO ARE THE CLIENTS?

BUSINESSMEN. NOTE I DIDN'T SAY ***SALARYMEN***. WE CONNECT ***BEAUTY*** WITH ***AMBITION***.

I'D LIKE ASSURANCES WE'RE NOT ***ESCORTING***.

YOU ARE ***COMPANIONS***. YOU PROVIDE CONVERSATION AND A CERTAIN ***AURA***. THAT'S IT.

I CAN DO ***THAT***. MY EX SAID I'M AN ***ACQUIRED TASTE***. AND RICH MEN KNOW A LOT ABOUT ACQUIRING THINGS.

WHAT KIND OF PLACES DO WE GO WITH THE CLIENTS?

ONLY THE MOST ELEGANT AND--

OPERA. STAGE SHOWS. FINE DINING. UPSCALE PARTIES.

YOUR JOB IS TO COMPLEMENT THE SETTING AND STAMP THE CLIENT WITH CLASS.

BUT IF I WANT TO STAMP AT HOTEL...?

AS IT HAPPENS, WE'VE LINKED MANY HAPPY COUPLES.

BUT THAT IS PERSONAL AND I TAKE NO COMMISSION FROM PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS.

THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME TO TALK BUSINESS, LET'S FIRST TOAST.

TO THE FINER THINGS.

TO MANY CLIENTS!

TO A GOOD TIME!

TO MONEY.

TO... TOMORROW.

---URRHH---

YEAH. I THINK SO... I FEEL SEASICK. WHY IS IT DARK?

HELLO? ARE YOU AWAKE?

WE'RE IN SOMETHING. DO YOU HAVE MATCHES? A LIGHTER?

YEAH! I TRY NOT TO SMOKE BUT SOMETIMES WHEN I DRINK I--

OK. USE IT.

FTT FTT

HI, LONNI. HOW DRUNK DID WE GET? I FEEL LIKE WE'RE MOVING.

WE WERE DRUGGED.

HI, YULIA!

DRUGGED MAKES SENSE. BUT WHERE ARE WE NOW?

WE GO NOWHERE.

---OOOHH---

---I FEEL SICK... IS THIS THE AFTER-HOURS PARTY...?

HI! I DON'T THINK SO.

YULIA, WHAT DO YOU MEAN WE GO NOWHERE?

FEEL AROUND. PLATES. TABLES AND GLASSES.

IS WHERE WE ATE.

---UURHH---

...WHAT IS HAPPENING ...?

HI, DELIGHT! NO IDEA!

YULIA'S RIGHT...

...MY CHAIR LAST NIGHT HAD A WOBBLE. THIS IS IT. WE HAVEN'T LEFT THE VIP.

SO WHERE'S THE DOOR?

I HOPE NOBODY MINDS IF I SMOKE.

ANYONE FIND ANYTHING?

NO.

NYET.

NOTHING.

WAIT. I MIGHT HAVE FOUND SOME-THING--

THUMP

OW!

WHAT THE HELL?!

HI, VANESSA!

I DIDN'T SEE YOU COMING.

HELP ME WITH THIS. I THINK IT'S A LEVER.

HURRK

THRUNK

GOT IT.

SMELLS LIKE THE OCEAN.

BE CAREFUL, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S OUT THERE.

WHATEVER IT IS, IT'LL BE BETTER. I'M GOING.

CHU-CLUNK

EEP!

CHU-CLUNK

WHAT IS THAT?

WHAT NOW?

ROOMS ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO MOVE!

EEEK!

SHIOK

AHHHH! SOMEONE! HELP! ME!

I WAS RIGHT! IT IS THE OCEAN!

I GOT YOU! REACH FOR ME!

GIRLS! MAKE A CHAIN!

IT'S A FAR WAY DOWN! AND MY! HANDS! ARE! SLIPPING!

OK! DON'T PANIC! YOU'RE GONNA BE ALRIGHT! I JUST NEED YOU TO--

WHAT?!

TABLE IS MOVING.

KA-

GOT YOU!

PULL ME UP! I THINK WE'RE LANDING!

I AM GOING TO DIE!

BLAM

LANDING *WHERE?!*

CLANG

SNAP

SQUEAK

WELCOME HOME, LADIES.

I AM SORINAH, YOUR PROVOST. RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SAFETY... AND *DISCIPLINE.*

...

I WAS TOLD YOU ARE ENGLISH SPEAKERS.

I'M TECHNICALLY AUSTRALIAN BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN THERE SINCE I WAS LITTLE--

WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON HERE?

AS YOU MIGHT ASSUME, THE FIRST FEW DAYS ARE HARD.

LET'S NOT MAKE THEM ANY MORE DIFFICULT THAN THEY NEED TO BE...

THERE'S BEEN A MISUNDER-STANDING ...

I NEED ANSWERS! AND I'M GETTING SOME IF I GOTTA BEAT THEM OUT OF HER!

SNAPK

YANK

ANSWERS, AS IT HAPPENS, ARE NOT GRATIS HERE. RATHER, A COMMODITY OF SOME VALUE.

SHOULD YOU ACT OUT, BECOME UNRULY, I WILL PLACE THIS SACK OVER YOUR HEAD ...

...AND THAT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE. BECAUSE I HAVE MUCH TO SHOW YOU.

WHERE ARE WE?!

I *DON'T* WANT A SACK OVER MY HEAD!

WE NEED TO MAKE A MOVE NOW.

NO...

...I THINK WE HAVE TO PLAY ALONG.

I *DON'T* WANT TO BE SHOT!

YOU ARE VERY *LUCKY.*

OF ALL THE WHOREHOUSES YOU COULD HAVE FOUND YOURSELVES, YOU INSTEAD JOIN A *DYNASTY.*

EXCUSE ME.

WE'RE NOT--OR AT LEAST I'M NOT-- *WHORES.*

TECH-NICALLY, I AM. BUT I DO NOT LIKE THAT WORD.

I PREFER *"COUR-TESAN."*

BUT I ALSO ACCEPT "SOILED DOVE." I KNOW IT'S NEGATIVE, BUT IT SOUNDS SO ELEGANT.

...NOBODY MOVE...

THERE'S... SOMETHING... IN THE...

...BUSHES.

THE ISLAND IS HOME TO MANY SPECIES, ALL OF WHICH ARE METICULOUSLY CARED FOR.

THE LORD OF THE MANOR IS AN ANIMAL LOVER.

YOUR HOST PRIDES HIMSELF ON TASTE. THE BEST OF EVERYTHING.

YOUR PRESENCE HERE SHOULD BE TAKEN AS FLATTERY.

HIS INTERESTS ARE VARIED. THIS IS THE FOSSILIZED SKULL OF A TARBOSAURUS BATAAR.

VERY NICE.

WHERE *IS* OUR HOST?

AN ANSELM KIEFER PIECE, RECENTLY PURCHASED AT AUCTION.

I LIKE HIS USE OF COLOR.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR DOODLES. WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?!

THE THIRD-LARGEST ELEVATOR IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.

I PREFER ESCALATORS BECAUSE I CAN TAKE THEM AT MY OWN PACE.

MAY I PLEASE SPEAK TO WHO-EVER'S IN CHARGE?

GET IN.

TINK

WATCH YOUR HANDS!

I ASSURE YOU, OUR STAFF HAVE NO INTEREST IN YOUR WARES.

THEY CANNOT BE SEDUCED OR MANI-PULATED.

MY BUTT SAYS OTHERWISE! AND IT DOES NOT DECEIVE!

WHAMP

EUNUCHS. ALL OF THEM.

DING

THIS IS YOUR SHARED SPACE. AND THESE ARE YOUR NEW SISTERS.

I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

IT'S TACKY.

HELL NO.

I NEED A DRINK.

I ALWAYS WANTED A SISTER.

WHAT DO YOU CALL THIS AESTHETIC?

ALRIGHT, LOOK, WE NEED TO SORT THIS *NOW.*

WHEREVER WE ARE, WHATEVER THIS DUMP IS, IT'S NOT FOR US!

WE'RE NOT COMMODITIES AND WE'RE NOT LIVESTOCK!

WE DON'T NEED SHEPHERDS WITH MACHINE GUNS!

AND WE DON'T NEED SOME TYPE OF BONDAGE COWGIRL TELLING US WHERE TO SIT AND WHEN TO SHIT!

NOW LOOK AT THESE WOMEN!

UH, HI. NICE UPHOLSTERY.

TELL HER, GIRL!

I DATED A GUY WITH A VAN THAT SORTA LOOKED LIKE THIS.

THERE REALLY HAS BEEN A MISTAKE...

I WANT TO SIT. IS OK?

EACH ONE OF THEM, A BEAUTIFUL SPIRIT. *NOT* A COW TO BE MILKED!

I DON'T KNOW HOW THEY DO THINGS HERE OR IN WHATEVER BALKAN HELLHOLE YOU'RE FROM!

BUT WHERE WE'RE FROM, THERE'S A THING CALLED RIGHTS. HUMAN BEINGS HAVE THEM!

SO WE UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER: I AM YOUR MOTHER NOW. I OFFER A MORE ***GENTLE*** HAND THAN THE MAN OF THE HOUSE.

I PRESUME YOU EACH HAVE A ***REASON*** YOU CAME TO HONG KONG TO SELL YOUR... ***COMPANION-SHIP.***

MAYBE YOU'RE COMPLICIT IN SOMETHING ***ILLICIT.***

OR

YOU MADE ENEMIES OUT OF POWERFUL PEOPLE.

BURNED BRIDGES AND LATER REALIZED YOU WERE AN ISLAND.

WHATEVER THE CASE, YOU RAN.

NOBODY ENDS UP HERE UNLESS THEY WERE BEING CHASED.

A LIFETIME OF BAD DECISIONS. OR ONE. EITHER WAY, YOU WERE IN A CORNER.

BUT THAT GOES AWAY NOW. THIS IS A NEW PHASE OF YOUR LIFE.

HISTORY STARTS TODAY.

OH. FOR ME?

SMAK

"SALUTATIONS, TO MY NEW GIRLS..."

WAIT! I NEED JUST A MINUTE OF YOUR TIME!

"...I AM SORRY I AM NOT THERE TO GREET YOU..."

HEY! I'M TALKING TO--

DOOF

"...BUT I WILL MAKE A POINT OF VISITING WITH EACH OF YOU WHEN I ARRIVE..."

NEXT TIME, I'LL USE THE WHIP AS INTENDED. SETTLE IN, PROSTI-TUTES.

THUD

SIGNED, "...YOUR NEW MASTER, MAXIMO ALMADA EYE-EYE."

THAT'S "*THE SECOND.*" MAXIMO ALMADA II.

EXCUSE ME, DO YOU SPEAK ENGLISH?

ƃuᴉlƃuƎ ʞdǝ ʎnoʎ ɟI ɹ

DOES ANYONE KNOW WHERE WE ARE?

TANGIER. THEY SMOKE SHISHA THERE.

ARE WE STILL IN HONG KONG?

I THINK WE'RE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

THAT'S MY NAN'S FAVORITE MUSICAL.

THANK YOU, BRIDGET.

I'LL ASK SOMEONE WHO KNOWS...

...ISN'T THAT RIGHT, VANESSA?!

TIGRESS ISLAND

CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE

THE TIGER CAGE

Tigers,
Hope this finds you well. I just finished the preview copy of TIGRESS ISLAND #1. I am fully in and will be buying the entire series. But I have one question: Should I feel bad for loving it? I mean this is the story of women kidnapped to an island to be exploited by a wealthy man. It's a little too 'ripped from the headlines' for me!

Conflicted Carl (actually Karl)

Dear CC,
Thanks for the letter. We didn't set out to make our story a parallel to anything specific, but part of a lineage of lurid, often gendered, fiction (mostly film) that pits prisoner against jailer. So, we know what you're referring to, but this story has much deeper roots. And you should feel bad for victims of exploitation! But you shouldn't feel bad for enjoying a story in the exploitation genre. The genre exists to help us blow off steam in a world full of news that's almost too sad to process. Being lite about heavy things is how humanity makes it to another day! Thanks for reading!

Dear Reprobates,
This piece of trash periodical you call TIGRESS ISLAND came to me by way of a 'reader preview' but I don't imagine many in your audience can actually read. This book is salacious and offensive to anyone with good taste, or taste at all. You should be ashamed of yourselves. Looking forward to the next issue.

Aggrieved Alice

Thank you, AA. Glad you got so much out of it.

To Whom It May Concern:
I found a copy of your comic magazine TIGRESS ISLAND on a Long Island Railroad car. It was marked 'preview' so I am writing to return it. I did not read it as I thought that could violate privacy agreements. I am currently going through a hard time and am relying on the kindness of others. If you appreciate me sending you this lost property, please help me out in any way you can. I've included my return address.

Struggling Sergei

Damn, Sergei. We're just working comic book creators and can't offer much. But I promise if TIGRESS ISLAND is made into a film, I'll mail you a Blu-Ray with director's commentary.

Dear Wardens,
I believe myself to be on an island of sorts. Isolated and in many ways 'jailed.' I can't help but find kinship in Hema, Delight, Vanessa, Yulia, Lonnie, and dear sweet Bridget. We're all just far out at sea, lost to those who love us, doing our best to make it to another day. While wondering if another day is even what we want anymore. The sun is still shining, but I don't feel its warmth. Solid first issue and I look forward to where the story takes us.

Haunted Hailey

Hailey, I'm not really one to judge, but can we get you some therapy? Or at least a houseplant to look after? You're scaring us over here! Sorta making us feel helpless to help you, but we're glad the book is giving you something to look forward to.

Heyo,
Read the preview copy. Best book of the year. Fantastic art. Crackerjack writing. I had my local shop add the series to my pull. Only one question: Where are the eyeballs?

Inquisitive Issac

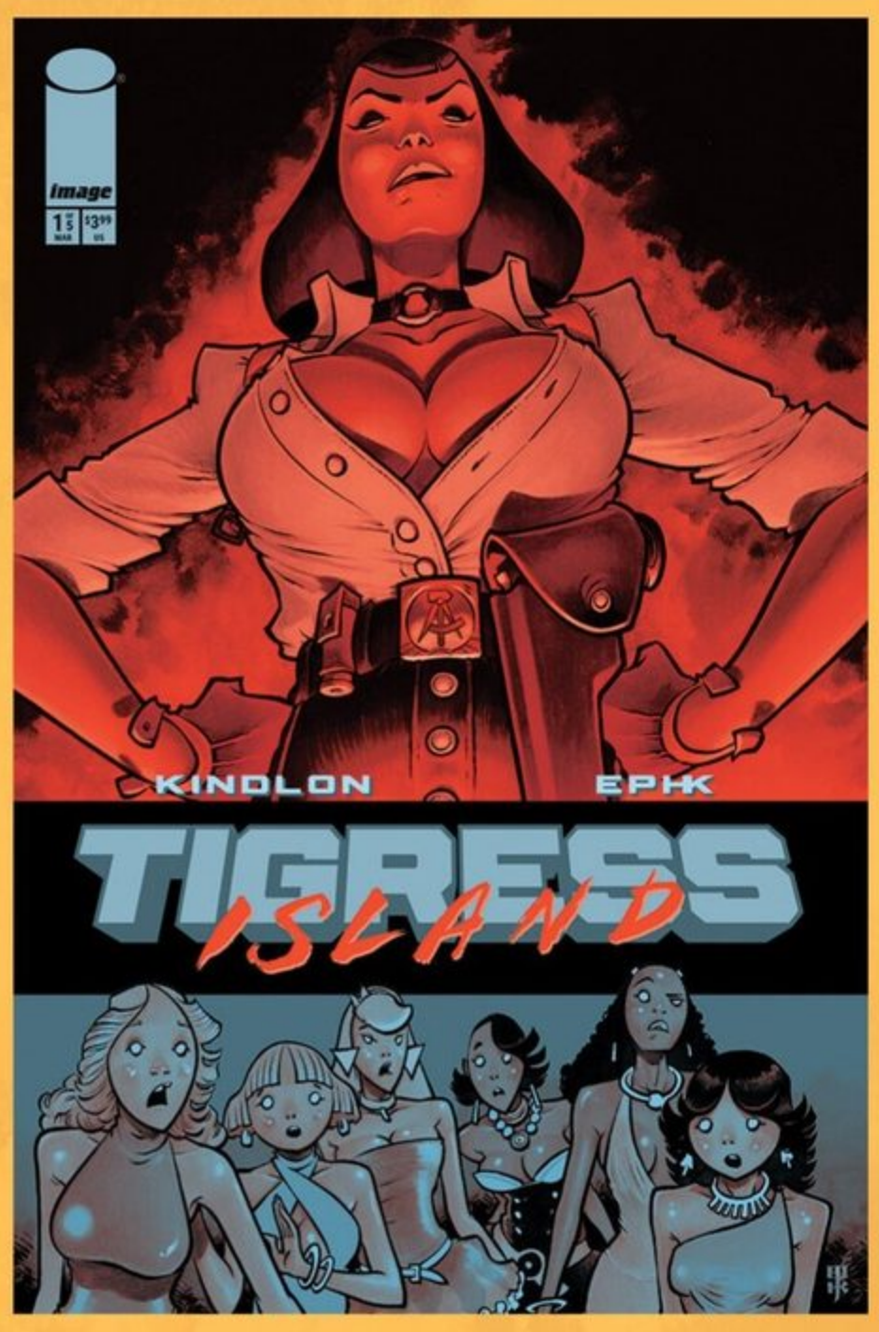
Whatup, Issac. Eyes are the window to the soul. And we leave ours wide open. Thanks for reading.

That's all for us this month! Hope you enjoyed issue one. We'll be back next month with a pulse-pounding issue that raises the stakes! Until then!

TIGRESS ISLAND

COVER GALLERY

EPHK



EPHK

LUANA VECCHIO

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BE CAREFUL WHO YOU HUNT DOWN — YOU MIGHT FIND THEM.

The 308 page full-color science fiction epic is in stores now! $32 USD full-sized TPB.

LIVING the LINE

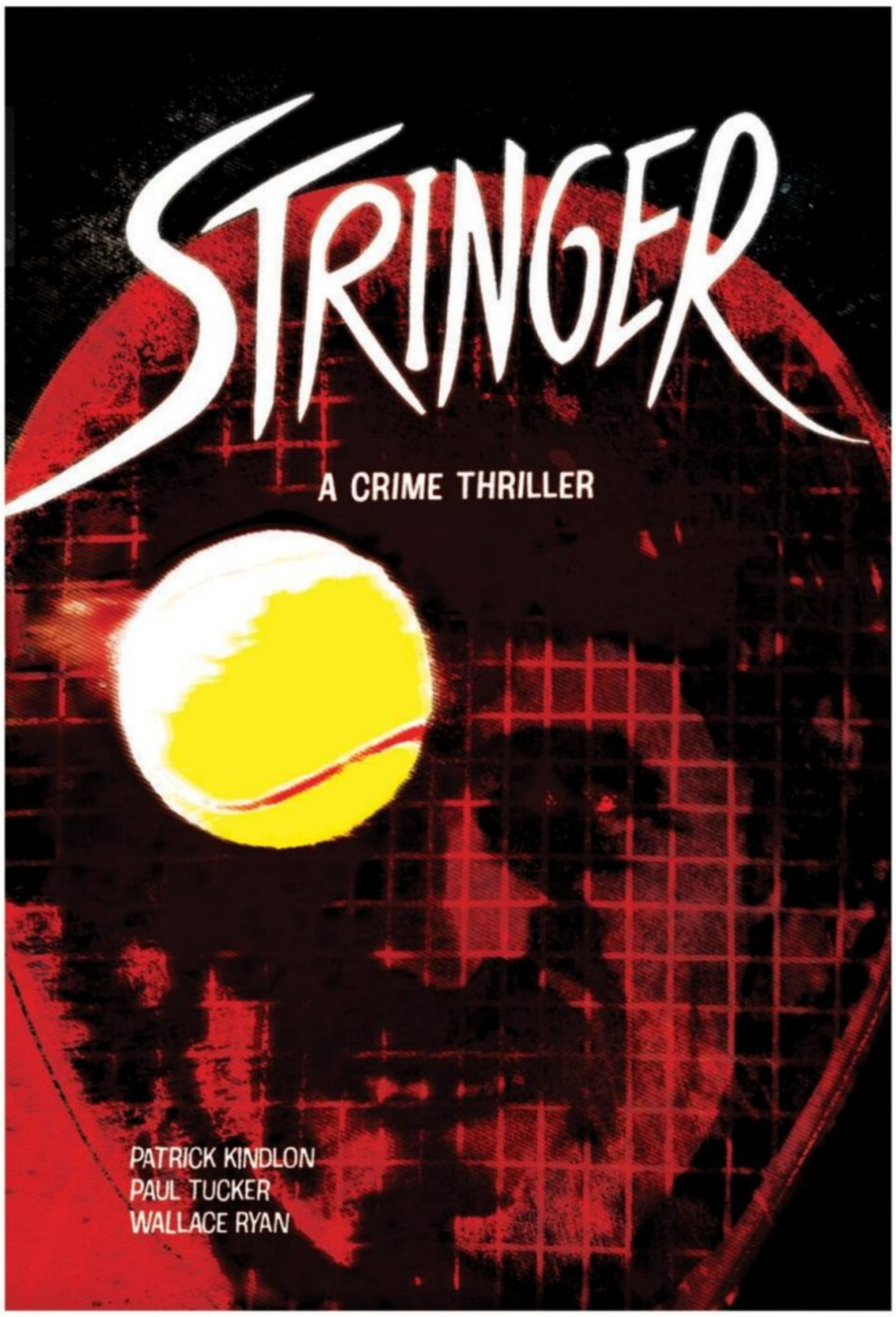
From the brush and pen of internationally- renowned science fiction pinup artist EPHK.

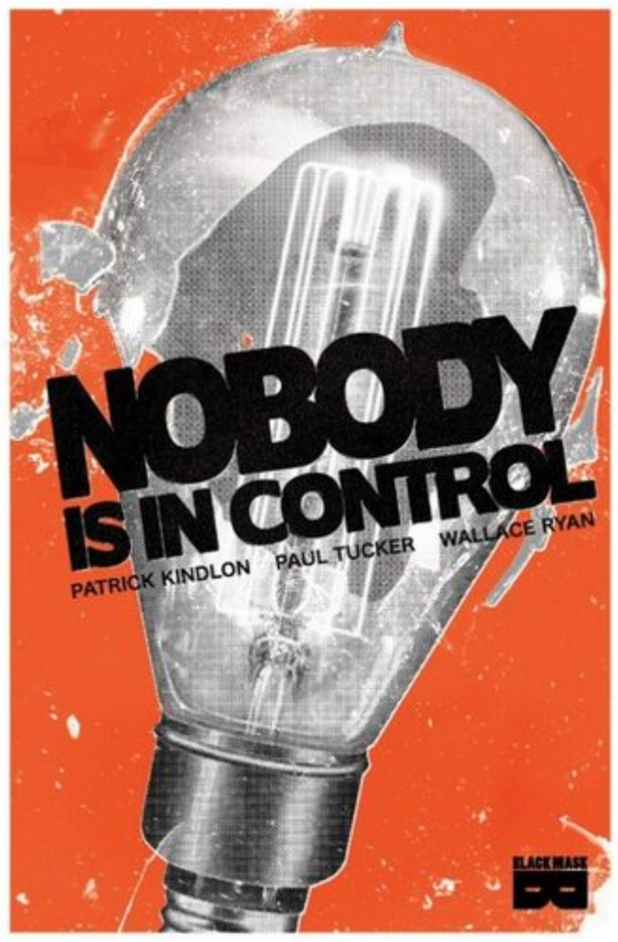
2064, Cape Town. Clouds roll down Table Mountain into the City Bowl, letting the neon signs and burning lights take over for the evening. The Seawall keeps the tides at bay, the ramparts keep the townships out, but nothing keeps the bodies from dropping into the night.

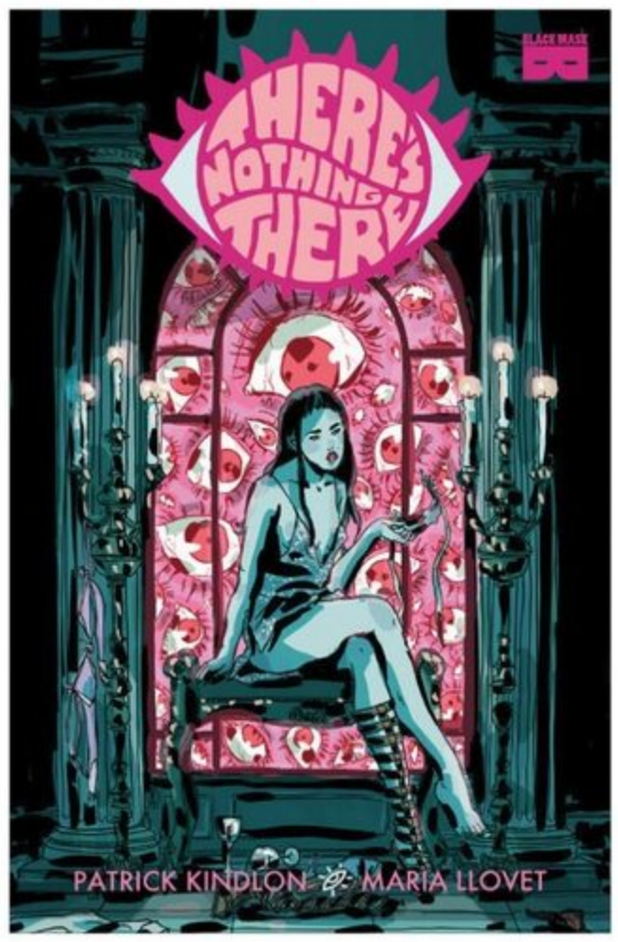
One cussing, cursed SAPS Detective, Gung "Gunnie" Yan Fung, is on the case. But this murder's not like the others. It seems to expand everywhere, even reaching into Gunnie's own past. Getting to the bottom of this one is going to cost her. And Gunnie has nothing left to offer.

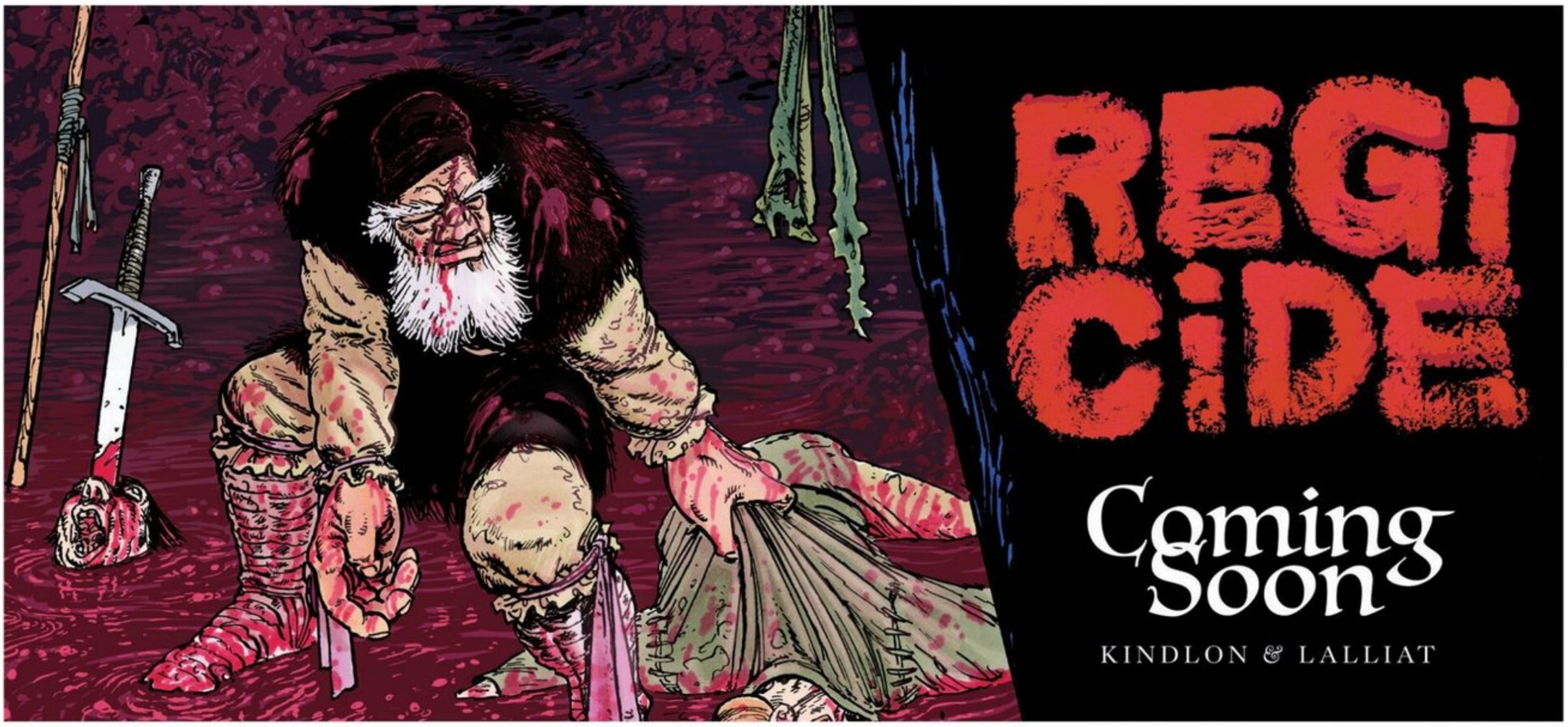
From the Cape of Good Hope to the streets of Hong Kong, comes Harpy, a moody, retro futuristic detective mystery. A tale of belonging, of purpose and above all, of consequences.

FROM PATRICK KINDLON









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DON'T BE SHY, LET US KNOW!

POST A PIC OF THE BOOK AND

TAG US ON IT!

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NEXT ISSUE

YOUR

FAN ART GOES HERE!

?

Send us a drawing of our characters and we'll share it with

THE WORLD!

ABDUCTED TO AN ISLAND
FROM WHICH NO ONE HAS EVER ESCAPED...

THEY'LL WAGER THEIR LIVES
THAT THEY CAN BE THE FIRST!

COVER BY **EPHK**

RATED **M** (MATURE)

ZONE